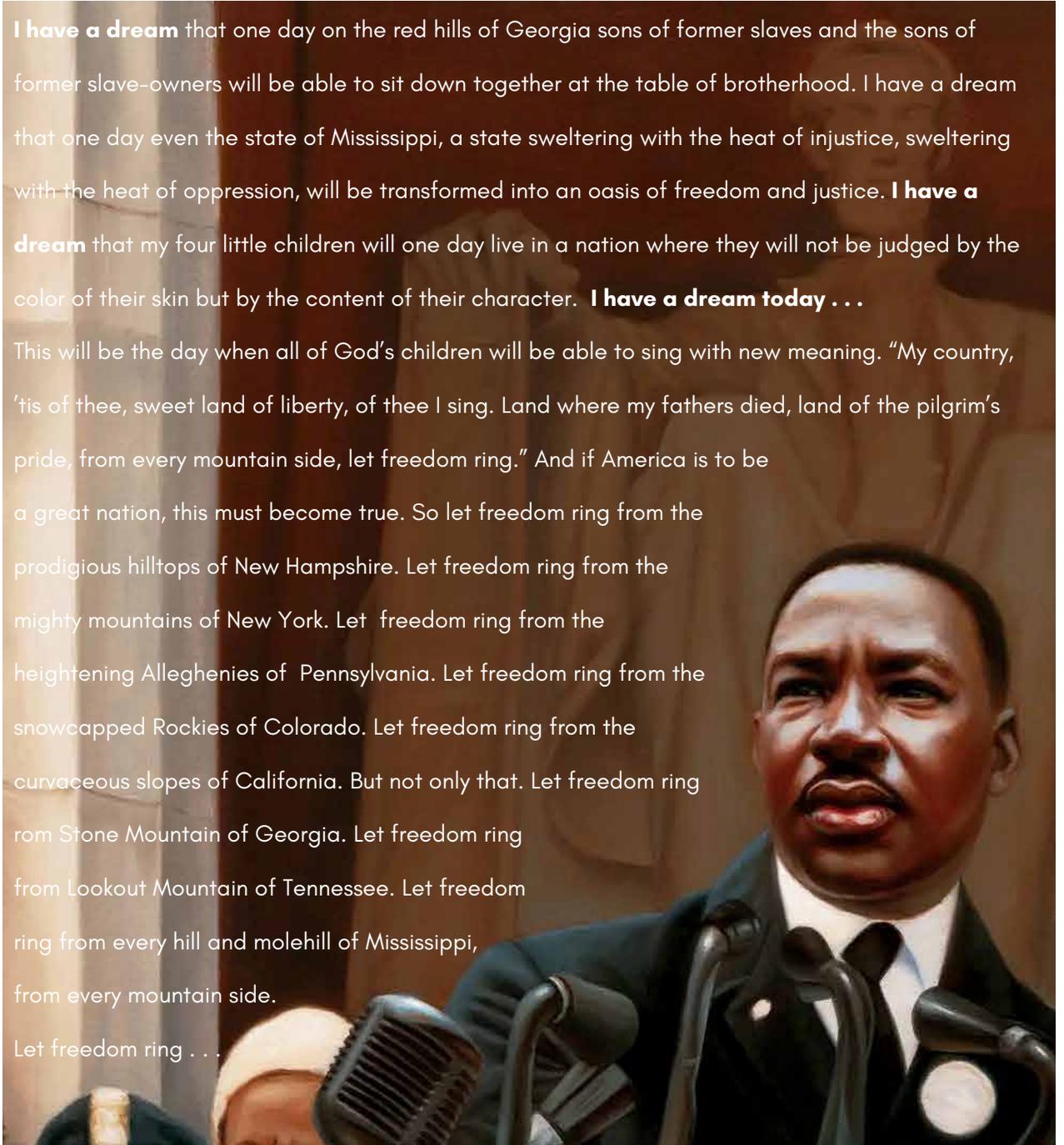


FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

January 19, 2025

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. **I have a dream** that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. **I have a dream today . . .**

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning. "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountain side, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountain side. Let freedom ring . . .



Order of Worship for January 19, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

Welcome

Rev. Darryl Kistler

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively
Paula Ellison, liturgist

One: May we dream of a world made new,

**All: Where together we shout for justice,
And as one we fight against oppression.**

One: May we dream of a world made new,

**All: Where together we seek God's righteousness
And as one we sing God's praise.**

One: May we dream of a world made new,

**All: Where together we climb God's mountain,
And as one we enter the promised land.**

One: May we dream of a world made new,

**All: Where together we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom,
And as one we enjoy its peace, and abundance and love.**

~ written by Rev. Christine Sine for Godspace

Prelude

Steven B. Smith, organ
Festival March
(quoting *Lift Every Voice*)
Michael Burkhardt

One: God of Righteousness, grant us your life-giving presence.
Guide us in our time of worship,
and remain with us as we step out into the world,
that we may face injustice with courage and love.

All: **May we come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself,
a society that can live with its conscience.**
The timing may feel off; the end of the road might be out of sight, yet we
trust in your holy presence.

One: How long?

All: **Not long, because no lie can live forever.**

One: How long?

All: **Not long, because you still reap what you sow.**

One: How long?

All: **Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long,
but it bends toward justice.**

One: How long?

All: **Not long, because you are our God, and all may take refuge in the shadow
of your wings. Amen.**

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

Tune: WE ARE CALLED

Sacrament of Baptism

Isla Rae Fox
child of Katherine and Austin Fox

Noah Houston Hall
child of Jessica Kenworthy and Adam Hall

Gracious and loving God, we pray for the newly baptized, Isla and Noah. They are children made in your image, and we offer our love and blessing to them. Grant them both strength for life's journey, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and hope of new life. Let them know your abiding presence as they continue to grow and emerge into who you have called them both to be. In Christ Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:14-21
Paula Ellison, liturgist

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Anthem

The Chancel Choir
It Is Well with My Soul
Arr. Nathan Carter

(For text, see hymn 840.)

Sermon: *Christ's Mission, King's Mission, Our Mission*

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

The Chancel Choir
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Thomas A. Dorsey

*Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Prayers of the People

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

...Our Father/Mother/God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Steven B. Smith, organ
Amen
Trad. African-American Tune

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Refrain:

*Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away;
Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us,
Come now and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.*

*Take from me your holy feasts, all your offerings and your music;
Let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an ever-flowing stream.*

*How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,
The day we beat our swords into ploughs,
when your peace reigns over the earth?*

*Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of power and riches:
The Lord will turn your laughter to tears,
on the wondrous day of our God.*

*Even now return to me, let your hearts be broken and humble,
For I am gracious, generous and kind;
Come and seek the mercies of God.*

*You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace;
To act justly, to love gently, and to walk humbly with God.*

+ Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.***

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

We offer you but a portion of the generous bounty you bestow, O God. Receive our gifts as we seek to walk in your way of truth and life. Where justice is sought, use these gifts to bring Christ's liberating word. Where there is brokenness, may they bring Christ's reconciling love. Where violence persists, may they be used as instruments of your peace. Where your children live in pain, may they be a mercy and grace. Amen.

Hymn - No. 379

(The Chancel Choir sings Verse 1.
The Congregation joins on Verse 2)

We Shall Overcome

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME

+ Common Commission

Reading in Unison

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
I've Been to the Mountaintop

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card and place it in the offering plate.

Following Worship

Coffee Fellowship in Spindler Dining Room

Martenson Ten soaps collection for UCOM

Semi-Annual Park Church jigsaw puzzle exchange

Why Christianity Must Change or Die book sale: \$10.00

The Annual Budget meeting will be Sunday, January 26, following worship in the Sanctuary. The 2025 Budget Summary is available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and is included in the current Congregationalists. Detailed budgets are available upon request from Gene Gess, Director of Finance. Join us in worship at 10:30 to hear Pastor Darryl's annual State of the Church Address.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In loving memory of Miss Geraldine Masters and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Parks Masters

The flowers at the Pulpit

In memory of Betts Casey.
Given by her family.

The flowers at the Lectern

In honor of Noah and Isla's baptisms.
Given by Jessica Kenworthy.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of all the children.
Given by Kathy Miller.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. mabiti1@gmail.com

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Sara Fetty passed away on Sunday, January 12 at the age of 89. Please keep her husband Maurice, their family, and her many friends in your prayers. Services will be held on Saturday, January 25 at 11:00am at Park Church with Rev. Darryl Kistler presiding. A luncheon will follow the service. Visitation will be at Metcalf and Jonkhoff Funeral Service (4291 Cascade Road SE) on Friday, January 24 from 3:00-6:00pm. Condolences may be sent to 1919 Boston SE, Apt. A220, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

A note from the Petersons

We just want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and conversations during the short illness and death of our father/grandpa, Jim Wildey. It has meant the world to us.

Keep Judy and Don Strock and their family in your prayers. Judy has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is beginning treatment. Please send cards of support and well wishes to her at 4265 Redbush Dr. Grandville, MI 49418.

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, Margaret Bilsky, Kurt Myers, Liz Taylor, and Mike VanDuinen.

Remember our young people away at college including: Luke Barnum, Laura DeBoer, Mallory Hagemann, Lily Kugler, Jack O'Malley, and Drew Wolford.

Remember those serving in the military including: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz, Andy MacGregor, and Matthew Quick.

Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at dkistler@parkchurchgr.org.

Why Christianity Must Change or Die Book Study

Sundays February, 9, 16, 23, and March 2 at 9:15am

You are all invited to a 4-week book study on *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* by John Shelby Spong led by Rev. Dick Sherlock. The group will meet in-person on Sunday mornings in Martenson Parlor. Grab your breakfast and join us! You'll be finished with plenty of time to head upstairs for the worship service. The book will be available at the POP Table in the coming weeks for \$10:00.

United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM) Collection Drive

Martenson Ten is sponsoring a collection drive for all manner of soaps for UCOM clients and you can help! **For the next 2 Sundays**, at the POP Table, you can drop off donated soaps for delivery to UCOM. Specifically requested items are: *laundry soaps, dish soaps, bar soaps, and shampoo.*

Puzzle Exchange

Today and Sunday, January 26 at the POP Table

Feeling a little housebound? There are a number of puzzle aficionados in our Park Church family and we invite you all to a puzzle swap! Select a few puzzles you are willing to part with, bring them to church, and exchange them for “new” ones. Make sure your used puzzles are in good condition and with all of the pieces please!

Announcing ParkPrize 2025: A showcase of creative expression!

February 16-23 in Merriam Hall

You know ALL about ArtPrize. We are excited to introduce you to ParkPrize 2025. We know our congregation is full of amazing artists and we want to celebrate your creativity. On February 16 and 23, Merriam Hall will be our own ParkPrize 2025 gallery which is where you come in! If you have art you would like to display (whatever medium suits you: photos, textile, models, sculptures, paper art, needleworks, yarn, drawings, paintings, Legos...any artistic expression) please contact Terrie Hunter thunter@parkchurch.org and plan to visit the ParkPrize 2025 displays in February and enjoy the artistic talent of your church friends and neighbors.

Calling all Park Church History Buffs

Are you “good with faces”? There is a NEW batch of OLD pictures on the table in Spindler Dining Room waiting for your help with identification and context. If you can identify any of these people, please let Fritz Crabb, our Park Church Historian know! fritz.crabb@gmail.com. While you are at it, check out a NEW batch of NEW pictures that we used for our bulletin boards and take home the ones you would like to keep.

Coming up at Park Church

- Mon. Jan. 20 the office is closed in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Tues. Jan. 21 at 11:30am Serving lunch at Degage
- Wed. Jan 22 at 4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry
at 7:00pm Bible Study in Spindler Dining Room Postponed to 1/29.
- Thurs. Jan 23 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Jan. 26 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship ~ Annual Budget Meeting
at 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
at 9:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship
Martenson Ten soaps collection for UCOM
Semi-Annual Park Church jigsaw puzzle exchange
Why Christianity Must Change or Die book sale: \$10.00
- Wed. Jan. 29 at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Jan. 30 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 6:30pm Parkmeisters rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Feb. 2 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - Communion Sunday
at 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
at 9:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
Continental breakfast before worship
Pastor Darryl's 50th birthday party in Merriam Hall after worship
Why Christianity Must Change or Die book sale: \$10.00



The Degage sign-up sheet has been updated through 2025.
There is room for you to volunteer once, twice, or many times!
Click the QR code to sign up.



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Serving With You Today

Ushers: John Miller, captain; Jim Butler, Cindy Dexter, Kathy Miller, Susan Sochanek,
Harlan Wilson

Greeters: Gary and Kathy Olsen

Parking Lot Greeter: Kevin Larr

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett, Bruce Robey, Andrew DeBoer

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Flower Care: Nancy Beaver

Ministerial and Office Staff:

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music

Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister

Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator

Gene Gess, Finance Director

Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator

Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian

Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant

Judi Stroh, Events Coordinator

dkistler@parkchurchgr.org

pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org

psmith@parkchurchgr.org

thunter@parkchurchgr.org

ggess@parkchurchgr.org

cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org

tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org

mbutler@parkchurchgr.org

jstroh@parkchurchgr.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203

office@parkchurchgr.org

www.parkchurchgr.org

www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.



Access the online donor and
payment portal by using the
camera on your phone and
clicking the link that appears.